



Environment and Natural Resources Committee

DRAFT Minutes

September 2, 2009 — 9:30 a.m.

Members Present: Patty Werner - Lake County SMC, Karla Kramer – US Fish and Wildlife Service, Martha Dooley – Village of Schaumburg, Sean Weidel – City of Chicago, Marty Jaffe – University of Illinois at Chicago, Jack Darin – Illinois Sierra Club, Mel Nickerson – Environmental Law and Policy Center, Ken Anderson – Kane County, Andy Kimmel – Lake County Forest Preserves

Staff Present: Jesse Elam, Hala Ahmed, Tim Loftus, Annie Byrne

Others Present: Michael Novotny – Baxter and Woodman

1.0 Call to Order

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Jack noted that Chicago 2016 was hosting a workshop to discuss environmental issues associated with the Olympics bid on September 10.

3.0 Approval of Minutes from July 1, 2009

Patty noted that she had made recommendations at the previous meeting on addressing water quality and air emissions from mobile sources and asked that those recommendations be included. The minutes were approved as amended. Karla asked that Jesse get the draft minutes to the ENR Committee earlier (within 1 – 2 weeks after the meeting) if the committee is skipping the next meeting.

4.0 Coordinating Committees Update

Several members asked if they could have a more updated committee summary. Jesse responded that the committee summary is put together for the coordinating committees and the Board, which meet a week later than the ENR committee but earlier than most of the working committees. Because of this, the committee summary that ENR sees covers working committee meetings from approximately two months prior to the ENR meeting; this could not be fixed without changing the ENR meeting time.

5.0 Update on Regional Water Supply Plan

Tim Loftus and Hala Ahmed of CMAP presented on progress to date on the regional water supply plan CMAP is developing. They referred to a PowerPoint available at <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/environment/minutes.aspx>. Tim last came to the ENR committee in Fall 2008; at that time, a major concern with the planning effort was funding from the state. Since then about half of the state budget for the project had been

restored. Tim reported that the process had largely had good participation from the delegates. Delegates from about half of the non-CMAP counties in the water supply planning area were participating regularly.

One of the major elements of water supply planning has been the development of demand projections to 2050 by researchers at Southern Illinois University under contract to CMAP. These projections include three scenarios (current trends, bounded by a projection for higher intensity use and lower intensity use) indicate future demand only, not considering water availability. The projections suggest that the deep bedrock aquifer in the region cannot meet all needs in scenarios, and that increased reliance on shallow aquifer systems may cause capture of streamflow by well pumping and interference between nearby wells. These effects are being modeled by the State Water Survey, which is expected to complete its part of the project in October 2009.

Hala indicated that the regional water supply plan also examines the relationship between land use and water supply, including the effect of land use on aquifer recharge, the relative cost of drinking water infrastructure as a function of development density or compactness, and the decrease in per capita water use as household density increases. The draft plan currently recommends that recharge areas be identified and protected through various means. A member asked about the interpretation of cluster development in the RWSP, suggesting that the lot sizes under consideration were too large to be thought of as cluster development. It was also asked whether common open space would be irrigated. Andy Kimmel suggested that if the common open space were a park (recreational), it probably would not be. A final aspect of the relationship between land use and water supply is the potential use of various tools to stretch the Lake Michigan allocation, e.g., infiltration of stormwater. It was noted by a member that the state capital bill passed earlier in 2009 had increased capitalization of the public water supply revolving loan fund. Another member suggested that although Illinois EPA has not in his opinion really used 20 percent of its state revolving fund apportionment for green infrastructure projects (as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act requires), it is possible that an emphasis on the water supply angle would help tee up enough “green” projects to make it possible.

Another central element of the RWSP is water conservation. The RWSP identifies fourteen conservation measures for potential use by implementers in the region. A member asked about rainwater harvesting; Tim answered that it is not one of the fourteen conservation measures. Another member asked whether the state water supply plan would be finished by the time the CMAP plan is done. Tim answered that it probably would not be; the executive order that initiated the northeastern Illinois water supply plan called for the state to develop a “framework” for statewide water supply planning, and he had not seen that yet.

6.0 GO TO 2040 Update

Jesse presented an attempt to address ENR committee comments on the initial scenario conclusions presented to the committee at its July meeting. There appeared to be three main needs pointed out by the ENR committee: an indicator of wetland impact, an indicator of biodiversity impacts via habitat fragmentation, and runoff/pollutant

loading. Referring to a PowerPoint presentation available at <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/environment/minutes.aspx>, Jesse described the proposed means of addressing these. Committee members suggested that the analysis of wetland impacts needed to include pressure from development associated with new jobs, not only households, and that wetland buffers needed to be protected as well as the wetlands themselves. Based on trials with two connectivity metrics, staff suggested taking a qualitative approach to evaluating connectivity impacts in scenario analysis. Staff had presented input from various members of Chicago Wilderness who felt that connectivity could not be dealt with adequately or productively using the trial metrics. A member felt that connectivity could still be important to some bird species as well as smaller mammals and insects. Two suggestions for a quantitative habitat fragmentation measure were a count of the number of patches that are greater than some area, and the amount or percentage of growth occurring within the Green Infrastructure Vision boundaries by scenario. After some discussion of runoff and pollutant loading, it was decided to discuss these at a later meeting.

7.0 Update on ARRA Activities

Because of time constraints, the update on activities under the recovery act was pushed back to the October meeting.

8.0 Other Business.

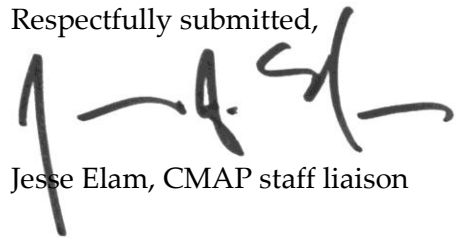
None.

9.0 Public comment

None.

10.0 Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jesse Elam', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jesse Elam, CMAP staff liaison